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Cuban Negroes and the Present Revolt

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Presents a Condensed Financial Statement of its Business for 1930

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INCOME FOR 1930

	Cash Bal. Brot Fwd Jan. 1, 1930 Premiums and Sundry Accounts			
	Total	\$1,144,394.27		
	DISBURSEMENTS FOR 193	30		
	Claims paid to Policyholders	\$ 383,490.76 446,581.26		
	Total disbursements Cash Balance, Dec. 31, 1930			
	Total	\$1,144,394.27		
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April, 1931



THE CRISIS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

A Record of the Darker Races

W. E. B. DU BOIS, EDITOR

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RISIS

IRENE C. MALVAN, BUSINESS MANAGER

THE CRISIS was founded in 1910 and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is conducted by an Editorial Board, consisting of W. E. B. DuBois, Editor-in-chief, Walter White, Herbert J. Seligmann and Rachel Davis DuBois.

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FORECAST

The May CRISIS will be the full spring number with our faces well set toward summer.

In appropriate celebration, *Carleton Beals* writes "Valerio Trujano: Black Joy", a story and description of African Mexico.

Arthur A. Shomburg sends us an illustrated article on "General Antonio Maceo."

There will be echoes of "Woofterism" and further announcements concerning the *Du Bois Literary Prize*, with an autobiographical note from the donor.

In addition to this, as we have said before, we are preparing a great debate on *Religion* by real masters, and we are going to study the recent frescos of *Aaron Douglas*.

The CRISIS is published monthly and copyrighted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 15 cents a copy, \$1.50 a year. Foreign subscriptions \$1.75. The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscription may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage and while THE CRISIS uses every core is assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.





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As the Eagle Soars

A NOTHER obstacle to mental disarmament lies in racial contempt. There are many manifestations of arrogance to which we may well address our individual and collective thinking. Mr. Hoover's commission to Haiti recommends among other things that all individuals among our force of occupation entertaining feelings of contempt for the people of Haiti be recalled and that none with like feeling be sent there. I have no doubt that a broader and more Christian attitude toward the educated Haitian would have been tremendously beneficial. We would have understood their point of view better and they would have understood ours. A race and island that could produce such a splendid man as General Alexander Dumas; his son, the great novelist, and his grandson, the playwright, author of Camille, is entitled to respect, especially in their own land.

More than two-thirds of the inhabitants of the world are brown, yellow, or black and it does not seem likely that any League of Nations can permanently preserve peace unless the white race develops sufficient Christianity to look upon the rest of the human race with sympathy and respect.

BOLTON SMITH, Memphis

As the Crow Flies

This is a great world; too much wheat is starving us to death; too much oil is rusting our machinery; too much coffee and cocoa is parching our throats; too much water power is making electricity too dear to use and too much brains is making us silly. It's a great world but I'm weakening.

Petroleum fills the pipe lines of our veins; sawdust from a million miles of ruined forests bursts our skulls; our hearts do not beat—they click; we are deaf with noise, blind with sunshine and so hurried to go somewhere that we never arrive anywhere. We eat coal and throw away bread. How can we imagine ourselves human?

Mr. Moseley of England is another link in the chain which binds together Socialism, Hitlerism, Fascism and Bolshevism with one world effort to substitute reason for competition in the economic world.

For 100 years presidents, senators, politicians and several other species of animal declared slavery was not a political problem. Slavery retaliated by disrupting the union, killing a half million men, and destroying hundreds of millions of property. Just now it is Prohibition that is not a political question.

If words would heal India she would soon start to recover. But words won't.

First, Revolution was about to destroy the Russian Revolution. Then Russians were starving. Then they were nationalizing women and spawning wolf children. Then they were cursing God and due to die in the fiery breath of Canterbury and Manning. Now comes positively the last straw: they're underselling the world wheat and oil market! Human endurance nears an end.

And Denmark has no history. With no army nor navy; with real schools and economic co-operation; with colleges whose aim is knowledge, not football—it has no history.

If it is going to take Spain as long to establish real democracy as it does to displace a Bourbon relic ca'd a King, happy days are a long hike ahead.

The foreign correspondents will have to begin another war in China pretty soon or lose several fat jobs. We're still sitting hard on the lid in Cuba but it's a hard tight squeze for Machado between us and the blaze and when the breeze is right we smell something. The spring crop of South American revolutions seems to be developing favorably and we await hopefully for a fair-sized harvest of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for several million of brown peons.

The cocoa boycott of black West African farmers may not pay in pence but it put the fear of God into the bally niggers-be-damned British merchants.

While Belgium is monkeying with the question of what language to teach Mathematics in at home, in the Congo, 14 times her size, black slavery and forced labor proceed unhindered and uncriticized even by Secretary Stimson, that doughty playboy of the Lord.

THE ANNUAL

DU BOIS LITERARY PRIZE

One Thousand Dollars

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

ISIS

It seems to me an opportune time to offer a prize for Negro Literature. I should like this yearly award of \$1000 to be known as the "Du Bois Literary Prize." Your name will be an inspiration to the Negro youth of future generations.

<section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text> As the number of books written by Negro authors during any given year is limited, it seems advisable to make the award in 1932 for Fiction, the following year 1933 for Prose Non-Fiction, and that in 1934 for Poetry and repeat this arrangement of yearly succession. It would have the advantage of giving a three year output to select from instead of a single year, when once launched.

Oliver La Farge has consented to act as trustee of the award during his life and it will be his privilege to appoint a successor. He is now working out rules of competition and methods of awarding the prize, which he will shortly submit for your approval.

Since any book of fiction suitable for the award of 1932 must be published by the end of January, 1932, it might be well to announce the facts as soon as possible and print the details given out by Mr. La Farge the following month.

I am with sincere regards

April, 1031 117

"De Lawd" On Broadway

By OLYVE L. JETER

I N the days of the Underground Railroad there came to London, Ontario, Canada, two run-away slaves, IsaBella Benton and Thomas Harrison. Here they married and made their home. On September 28, 1864, was born their fourth child a son who was to have a varied and unusual career. Just before his birth, his mother saw Booth play Richard III in New York City. When the little fellow came she said, "I shall name him Richard, and I pray he will be a man of much service and credit to all of us."

So came Richard Berry Harrison.

Shortly before his seventeenth birthday, death carried away his father, and the boy faced the responsibility of aiding in the support of his mother and sisters. He had the usual boyhood experiences: daily school, newspaper selling, farming, and other oddtime jobs. His greatest thrill came when he sold newspapers at the local theatre and could chat with the actors. How he listened to their tales of travel, and how he longed to go with them. His spare pennies were spent for gallery seats to watch the performances. In later life he referred to his dramatic training as having come largely from his observations "before the footlights and in the gallery.

He loved to recite and won prizes for it in school and at Sunday School. In an old barn on the home lot he would gather about him the boys of the town and there he would re-enact characters he saw at the theatre. "That little Dick Harrison of Wellington Street loves to recite and take off people more than anyone I've ever seen," the people of the town said. Visiting ministers and entertainers who stopped at the Harrison home remarked about him, "He will make a name in the world. He is a born impersonator."

. After completing general studies in school, Dick Harrison found employment in Detroit and entered the Detroit Training School of Dramatic Art. Under such eminent teachers as Lambert, Preston, and Noble, he pursued studies in dramatics, and later he became a private student of Edward Weitzel of the world-famed Henry Irving Dramatic School of London, England.

He built up a large repertoire, specializing in Shakespearian drama. But he found it most difficult to get engagements. There were no booking concerns to manage such work. Money was too scarce to enable him to travel and make his own contacts for engagements.

In his early manhood he met Paul Laurence Dunbar, and to the time of the latter's death they were intimate friends. At one time they traveled together in professional work, Dunbar selling his book, "Oak and Ivory," and Harrison reciting from that collection and also from other works. The tour proved anything but illustrious for the young men, however. "It seemed at that time," Mr. Harrison says, "that everybody had a book of some kind and that almost everybody could recite something, so our wares were not especially desired. We had to find some-thing else to do." Later Dunbar said of him: "Richard B. Harrison has went into railroad service, but continued to study, and occasionally a recital engagement came to him. "Mv experiences on the road during the day and a reader at night will ever remain in my memory," says Mr. Har-rison. "I made many blunders as a dining car porter, even going so far as to spill soup in a prim old lady's silken lap. But the experience of travel and the friendship of the other men in the service are things I would take nothing for.'

He remained in the employ of the railroad for several years, first as dining car porter, later as a clerk in the Auditing Department of the Pullman Company in Chicago, and for a long period he was superintendent of mails for the Santa Fe Railroad in Los Angeles. While holding the latter position he booked with the L. E. Behymer Lyceum Bureau, which later merged with the Great Western Lyceum Bureau, and had a long career in the West as dramatic reader at social functions, in schools, churches, and at Chautauquas. One tour carried him into Mexico where he filled engagements for several months.

Returning to the United States he conceived an idea hitherto unworked. "I saw the need for getting the interest of our schools and churches in the development of dramatics in their work," says Mr. Harrison. "As I traveled and lived in the homes of various friends, it was astonishing to

see the material among young people who were eager for this training, and I felt that our religious and educational institutions should provide it for them."

Making his home in Chicago, where he married and reared a family, he gave attention to the development of this idea. For forty years he traveled all over the country, giving recitals, training groups in dramatics, conducting lyceum courses for churches and schools, supervising entertainments for city celebrations.

Financial returns from these activities were at times very meager, but he continued. "Sometimes I found myself walking miles from one town to another," he has often told, "because the 'committee' in charge did not take in all their receipts before time for me to leave. Some of them to this day have not yet, to my knowledge, received their full reports on tickets. Or probably they have and their letters to me miscarried in the mails."

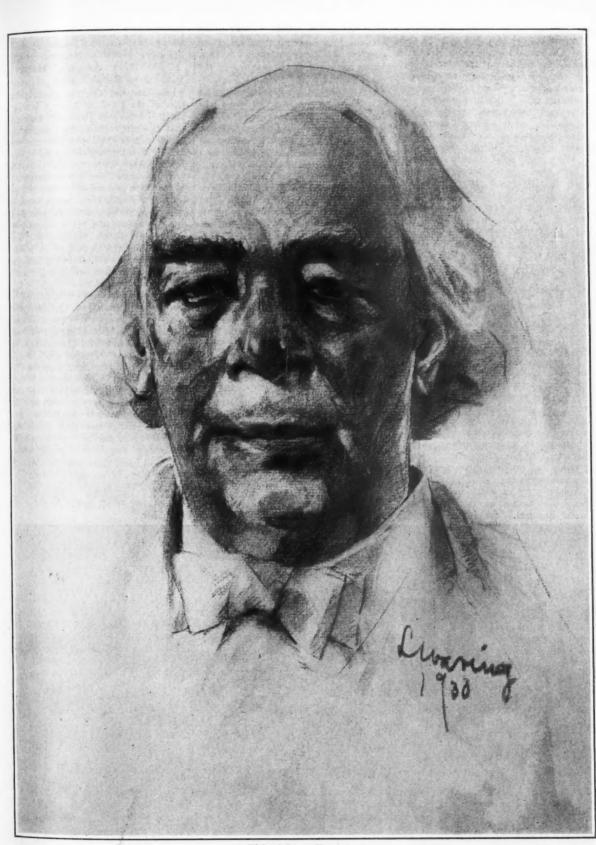
Including in his repertoire the works of Shakespeare, Poe, various Canadian and English writers, Dunbar, and many others, his recital work afforded several nights' performances without the repetition of a single number. At times he was engaged for five and six continuous recitals within one week. His genius as a character impersonator brought him to the forefront of America readers. The people of the South styled him "Reader Harrison."

A digression from his chosen field during the World War brought him into school work as head of a denominational institution of learning in the southwest. At another time he was financial secretary for a leading Negro church school. In his campaigns for funds for these institutions he gave numerous recitals.

After the War he resumed his dramatic work. In one of the principal churches in New York City he instituted a summer lyceum course, which laid the foundation for the institution of dramatics as a part of the program of that church.

It was while he was in North Carolina, recuperating from a nervous breakdown in the summer of 1922 that he developed what will remain as probably his most outstanding piece of work with schools. He suggested

THE CRISIS



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to the late J. B. Dudley, then president of the Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, a dramatic school for teachers of the state as part of the curriculum of the summer school of that college. With an enrollment of 17 the first summer, he developed this school which in the course of seven summers grew to nearly 200 and included teachers from states outside of North Carolina.

With this work in the summer, travels farther south during the spring and fall: Harrison later made his headquarters in New York City where during the winter he trained dramatic groups in several churches, taught a class of private students, and gave recitals in New York and New England.

He was in the midst of his winter tour in 1930 when Marc Connelly asked him to accept the role of "The Lord" in "The Green Pastures." After his first perusal of the manuscript, Mr. Harrison was most reluctant to accept the part. On paper the play appeared as burlesque, with the religious beliefs of his people apparently distorted and any effort to play the character of the Lord appearing as a piece of sacrilege. He received no encouragement from his friends. "Probably it was because I received no encouragement that I was determined to make something of the character," he has often said. "It was certainly not my first time to receive no encouragement.'

A long story of itself could follow about his success as star in "The Green Pastures," the Pulitzer Prize play for 1930 which critics have acclaimed the greatest dramatic sensation on Broadway in many decades. From the night of the opening of the play, February 26, 1930, through its 430th performance on February 28 of this year, newspapers all over the country and in many parts of the world have been filled with stories of the great play and the acting of Richard B. Harrison "which is a marvel of sympathy and understanding." Probably the most widely quoted comment from critics has been Heywood Broun's: "You can run along Broadway night after night, sprinting from show to show, and see no better rounded and complete performance than that given by Richard Harrison. . . . Possibly Mr. Harrison's performance has done much to avoid any implication of offense. . . . If the play must be classified it can be best identified as an Afro-American morality. . . . The man or woman who can sit through 'The Green Pastures' dry-eyed has no right ever to be allowed in any theatre."

Crowds have poured backstage to visit Mr. Harrison after every performance. Letters from all over the country have come in a steady stream since the papers first proclaimed his success; too numerous to fill have been requests to him for speaking engagements before church groups, clubs, schools. Interviews with religious and educational leaders have crowded into his busy days.

A significant high spot in his present success has been the awarding of

the Spingarn Medal to him with the following word from the judges of the Spingarn Medal Committee:

"The 17th Spingarn Medal is awarded to Richard Berry Harrison, whose fine and reverent characterization of the Lord in Marc Connelly's play, 'The Green Pastures,' has made that play the outstanding dramatic accomplishment of America in the year 1930. But the medal is given to Mr. Harrison not simply for this crowning accomplishment, but for the long years of his work as dramatic reader and entertainer, interpreting to the mass of colored people in church and school the finest specimens of English drama from Shakespeare down. It is fitting that in the sixty-seventh year of his life he should receive widespread acclaim for a rôle that typifies and completes his life work.

"I wish it were possible for me to share these honors with the many students and friends with whom I have had such delightful association through these years," said Mr. Harrison on his 66th birthday. Most of all I would have my students and all aspiring Negro youth to know that there is success for them in their own field if they will become prepared, have patience and determination to make their way, and bear these things modestly. Such aids to achievement as the various awards, scholarships and honor medals which now exist, and were unknown during the days of my struggles, should but emphasize this and stimulate the efforts of our young people to the highest in life."



The Ark Scene in "The Green Pastures"

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April,

Liberia and the League of Nations

By OTTO ROTHFIELD, M.A. (Oxon)

F. R. G. S., Indian Civil Service, Retired

A GOOD deal of the League Council's time at the last meeting was spent on the affairs of Liberia; certain action was pressed on the Republic by the Council and accepted by her; and she is to be helped by a loan to finance the reforms which have been found essential. The history which led up to these events is worth considering.

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The independence of Liberia was recognized by the Powers in 1847. Since then the Republic has been governed by what amounts to an oligarchy living in the coast districts and descended from the settlers who came there from America and who have little or nothing in common with the tribes of the interior under their rule. The United States' government has particularly interested itself in Liberian development, for various reasons partly sentimental but in recent years not unconnected with the rubber trade. Mr. Roosevelt, when he was President, gave this interest practical expression by securing considerable financial control through the appointment of American advisers; and, after this, an important American company called Firestone Plantation secured a large concession in the country. This fact focussed attention on labour conditions and administration in Liberia. The Firestone Plantations Company of course wanted cheap labour, if it was to make the profits it expected; and it accordingly pressed the Liberian government to provide the workers whom it needed. Liberia, however, also supplied indentured labour to the neighbouring Spanish island of Fernando Po and to some extent to French Gabun. All these workers had to come from the tribes in the interior; and the tribesmen did not see why they should work under intolerable conditions for minimum wages which they seldom got. The natural result was that all the labour required for both the Spanish and French colonies and the Firestone Plantations could not possibly be obtained without compulsion. Besides, there were public works in the Republic as well for which forced labour was habitually exacted. Competition became keen; flogging and torture were used; and the American Company found it difficult to get the workers that were needed. Hence, after some stories had been published, the United States in 1929 transmitted a despatch to the Liberian government objecting to the export of labour from that coun-

ISIS

Mr. Rothfield was twenty-five years in the Indian Civil Service and for the last four years of his service was Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bombay, and a member of the Legislative Council of Bombay. In 1926-27 he visited the United States and lectured in various places on Indian subjects. He is the author of several books about India, the best known being "Women of India", "Indian Dust", and "Omar Khayyam and His Age." He has also written "Impressions of Cooperation in France and Italy." He is at present special correspondent in Europe for the "Times of India." This article was written in Liberia.

try to Fernando Po, as being "hardly distinguishable from organized slave The final result was that Litrade. beria, wise in its generation, invited investigation by the League of Nations. This investigation has lately been completed and the report of the investigators submitted to the Council. It is interesting to note that, a few days before the Council met, the United States government issued upon this report a minatory despatch to Liberia, in which it suggested the appointment of a number of American officials by this ostensibly independent That such a despatch from country. the United States at that juncture was in the nature of "a slap in the face" for the League can hardly be doubted, though the action is defended by American pressmen as being intended to assist the League in its deliberations!

That the facts exposed by the investigation make unpleasant reading, is undeniable. Forced labour of an ex-treme kind was undoubtedly exacted by Liberian officials in circumstances which could hardly fail to have been known to every member of the government. One of the worst offenders, indeed, was the Vice-President of the Republic, who connived at atrocities and made money out of this virtual slavery for himself. The military "Frontier Force" was habitually employed to bring in men for forced labour; and these men were again used by many of the officials for compulsory work on their own lands. Moreover a repugnant system of "pawning" children and even wives and other relations was in force which was aided and

abetted by heavy "fines" imposed on tribesmen by officials. It was proved that particularly brutal forms of force, coupled with non-payment of wages. had been used to obtain labourers for the Firestone Plantations, for Fernando Po, and for French Gabun. The tribal chiefs were degraded and subjected to savage punishment and violence. It is an unpleasant story and the resignation of the Vice-President and some other officials was the first step which followed its publication. It is certainly good to know that action will now be taken which will make the recurrence of such malpractices in Liberia unlikely. Liberia has agreed to the suggestions of the Council and will carry them out under the supervision of the League of Nations. On the other hand, as the revenues of the country are insufficient to finance the necessary administrative reforms, the Council has in principle decided to grant a loan to the Republic, which will be determined definitely at the May session.

Well, Liberia has been blamed and has deserved the blame it got, but Liberia is not the only sinner. One hopes that matters will not rest here. Tf they do, the Council's verdict will be a piece of smug hypocrisy. For, even as far as the Liberian matter itself is concerned, it is obvious that the authorities of Fernando Po and of French Gabun deserve quite as much censure as the Liberian government. After all it was they who demanded the enslaved labour which was supplied; and it is absurd to suggest that they were not fully aware both of the conditions in which it was caught and of the conditions of unpaid and overworked compulsion and intolerable hardship, disease and mortality under which it had to toil in their territories. Yet to them not a word of censure has so far been addressed. France and Spain, of course, are Great Powers; and Liberia is only a small coloured Republic. Furthermore, it is impossible to sit still under the whitewashing of the Firestone Plantations Company which the report provides. Here again the old saw applies, "who wishes the end, wishes the means." It is obvious that the Company's officials turned a very blind eye to facts which were there for them to see, and a very deaf ear to cries of suffering which were loud enough to be heard.

But it would be conscious hypocrisy to suggest that virtual slavery and brutal compulsion to labour are confined to the Liberian Republic. Africa still is, as it so long has been, the land of servitude and cruelty. It is notorious that the French Congo harbours abuses which dare not face the light of day. André Gide's diary of his voyage in itself supplies evidence enough of what goes on under French rule, owing to the greed of exploiting Com-panies and the subservience of badly paid officials. It is known that large tracts of country were virtually depopulated because of the numbers of workmen caught and sent to die on the Brazzaville-Ocean Railway. These men-and not men alone but women as well-were flogged into such overwork that they fell like flies before typhoid and other diseases. Actually 57 per cent of the workers caught for the Railway died in their servitude. Happy indeed by comparison was the lot of Israel during the Captivity. But French Congo is not the only plaguespot on the Continent. The Portuguese African colonies ruthlessly abuse forced labour in conditions in which its victims would hardly know they are not slaves, except that they are less well-fed. Even within the British Empire Kenya is little better and labour is recruited for the white settlers under conditions which would arouse a storm of indignation in Great Britain, were they really known.

What is the remedy? What can be done to end an exploitation of the African which is a stain upon humanity? The isolated censure of the weakest of the offenders is obviously not enough. The only real remedy appears to be the adoption of the proposal made to the League last year by the British delegation. The proposal was that a permanent Slavery Commission should be set up by the League at Geneva, analogous to the permanent Mandates Commission. The proposal was unhappily rejected. The other Powers involved would not face inevitable exposure and were reluctant to tolerate the control and restraint which would ensue. Yet the proposal must not be dropped. It must be repeated till it finally is accepted; and it must be repeated with the weight behind it of all thoughtful men of goodwill in all countries and not least in the United States. Such a Commission alone can secure to the African freedom from barbarous exploitation and the elementary rights of man.

Normalizing By BETTY BARCLAY

A YEAR ago everyone seemed to be on a diet or contemplating a diet which was to start in the near future.

Today the same people are normalizing. When the 1930 maid or matron counts her calories and balances her proteins and carbohydrates, she no longer "diets". She "normalizes".

The change is more than one of terms. "Dieting" usually signified semi-starvation. "Normalizing" apparently means the process of making one's contours conform to the lines of perfect health. It may apply to putting on weight as well as to reducing, a situation in which more than one young woman has found herself recently, owing to the growing popularity of curves.

"Some like 'em fat and some like 'em lean" is passing into the discard. So is "the nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat" so far as debutante and flapper are concerned. There is a wide spread desire for plumpness, or at least for enough flesh to give the curves that have always been the delight of healthy women and men. With riding habits, bathing suits, golf togs, and hiking outfits, we need curves to specify our sex—and curves are coming back.

But the curve must not go too far. Ten pounds overweight is far worse than ten pounds under weight. Physicians have always known that the overfat brought in more money to them and to their competitors, the undertakers, than over-thin.

Each day, eat less of the heavy foods you have always eaten and still delight in. Each day satisfy that craving for food by eating more heavily of such foods as lettuce, celery, beets, string beans, oranges, lemons, apples and other vegetables and fruit. Get up from each meal before you feel that you have had quite enough. In half an hour, when the food eaten has begun to digest, you will feel perfectly satisfied. Drink plenty of water, fruit juices and lemonade. Get plenty of fresh air, plenty of sleep and at least a fair amount of exercise. Bathe regularly. That's "normalizing"—the successor to our old bugbear the terrible "diet."

That's why "normalizing" has taken the place of dieting. The wise woman (yes, and the man too) who is anxious to get into perfect form and to enjoy perfect health, takes to normalizing far more happily than to dieting.

The "normalizer" is content to take off a pound a week—or a half pound, or a quarter pound, provided she can continue this for a sufficient number of weeks to get her back into form. Fortunately, these small amounts may be taken off without any strenuous fasting or mournful refusals of favorite foods.

Naturally, fatty foods produce fat, and the woman who wishes to normalize must not insist upon too much bacon or cream. But a little lean meat may take the place of bacon, and a little less cream take the place of the quantity formerly sipped, and still the good work may go on.

In plain words, the "normalizer" eats about everything she formerly ate, but she eats certain foods in smaller quantities, and other foods in larger.

Heavy fat, carbohydrate and protein foods may be reduced, while green vegetables and fruit may be used in increased quantity, and still the number of calories taken per day will be less than in the old days.

Sugars and starches are needed to burn fat—so these must not be eliminated entirely. The old-fashioned diet that suggested such an elimination was a dangerous one to follow for long.

Alkaline foods must be eaten in quantity to balance the acid-producing foods eaten. Right here it is well to know that practically all vegetables and fruits are alkaline. The orange and the lemon, so often thought of as acid, are actually two of the most important of our alkaline foods, so that the full glass of orange juice in the morning is an excellent balancer of the acid eggs, mackerel and tonst, while the daily salad and fruit cup are two additional aids in this fight against acidosis.

How can you normalize? The rule is the simplest in the world. Here it is in the little paragraph inserted above.

THE CRESS

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The Students of Yesterday

By GUSTAVO E. URRUTIA *

I N these days, has anyone the right to claim that he speaks in the name of the colored people of Cuba? Certainly not, nor do I believe that anyone would pretend to do so, knowing that the epoch is long past in which the Negroes of Cuba as a group functioned with solidarity, moved by the same impulses of racial interest and aspiration. Our spiritual and legitimate forces must be agreed upon today in a particularly clear and authentic manner, so that no one may deny weight to a statement made in the name of the race.

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Lacking authority, I should not answer with declarations, nor "diplomatic" statements, the questions which are asked me concerning the distinct position of the Negroes, a mystery to many, in these times of infinite bitterness and the far-reaching results of the Republic. But this does not excuse me from answering the demands of public interest with that which should not be lacking in every newspaper man's portfolio: a personal interpretation, a subjective version, of this unforeseen phenomenon in high politics in Cuba, which will express my opinion of current happenings.

It is, that formerly the man of color functioned, equally, as a Cuban, and as a Negro. And now he functions as a Cuban, and refrains from functioning as a Negro. That is all.

It is not just, naturally, for any Cuban to desert the gravest conflict that has ever confronted the Republic, or to deny his aid to the country, whatever the damage may be that scepticism has made in his soul. For this reason the Negro, full of patriotism, forgetting all to serve his country, is serving her in every sector of political activity: at the side of General Machado; in the co-operatives; with the liberals who consider themselves unlawfully excluded; in the ranks of the nationalists; figuring among the orthodox conservatives, and with the populares; in the workers movement and, according to the police records, even with the advocates of the Soviet.

So the Cuban Negro, then, is not lacking in politics. On the contrary he is more active than ever, now that he takes part in all the parties and groupings, and in all the doctrines, in place of being exclusively liberal in Vuelta-Abajo, and conservative in Vuelta-Arriba, as he formerly was. He has become more diversified.

That which is surprising, and seems

April, 1931

I think to the American reader should be explained the title of my article. In the present opposition to the Machado's government, the students of the University, of private and Governmental Colleges, of Normal Schools and Commercial Schools have taken the lead. They romantically aim to sweep away everything, every man, every institution which is rotten. They dream that a new sound Republic can be made out of Cuba, and they are very much respected and ap-preciated for their honesty and good will. Many of them are in jail or in exile.

This is why I call the Negroes THE STUDENTS OF YES-TERDAY.



Antonio Maceo

ANTONIO MACEO During his life Maceo was the leading and most brilliant Cuban general in complete charge of the Colored Patriots in the Cuban Revolution. JUAN GUALBERTO GOMEZ

whose picture appears on page 129, is one of the pre-eminent leaders of Cuba in the war of Liberation against Spain. He is nearing his 80th birthday.

* Translation by Langston Hughes from Armonias, Diario de la Marina, Havana, Cuba, December 28, 1930. strange to many, is that for the first time in the history of Cuba, the Negro is not "giving color" to politics; and it is lamentable that a more penetrating glance has not revealed to the majority the fact that now, when least attention is paid to the Negro, as such, is precisely the time when he is giving his finest proof of disinterested patriotism. It is the first occasion in which the Cuban Negro has not had a peculiar racial interest tied up in the political problem in which he is concerned.

In the war of '68, it was the emancipation; in that of '95, the principles of Marti; in the first North American intervention, the interference of Yankee prejudice. Then he saw sprout and grow in the Republic a native prejudice. "The black brother" became a decisive factor in the triumph of all the internal revolutions, jumping into one after another in his eagerness to find the people who would make real the principles of Marti. The Negroes were the romantics, they had faith in men and principles, they lived in hope. They were "the students" of that day.

There followed in succession political chiefs and parties. In all, as a common co-efficient, the Negro found an absolute abstention, an inflexible policy of "hands off" in regard to all the vital economic and social problems whose solution would benefit his race alone, although injuring no one else. And he lost faith in everything; even in himself. He came back to the calm of one who waits for nothing, and he began to see that he had within himself that for which he was searching in others, and he set himself to cultivating and promoting it. With this discovery he has found a new way of serving Cuba. If economic poverty is the source of all the prejudices that persist, they will cease when the Negro becomes rich, thus perfecting the unity of the Cubans, "the only pro-gram for the little countries," as Wifredo says. One cannot deny that there is a certain euphony in this discovery.

The Negro looks with sadness upon the gloomy picture of current happenings, and having not even the morbid consolation of feeling himself somewhat accountable in this hour of *expiation*, he gives himself in silence to the task of clearing decks, along with the rest of the Cubans, with no hope whatsoever in the future of traditional politics.

Negro Authors Week-An Experiment

By C. RUTH WRIGHT

TO have an entire week devoted to the study and promotion of Negro literature and Negro writers seemed an excellent idea to Dr. R. R. Wright, Jr., editor of *The Christian Recorder* and pastor of Jones Tabernacle A. M. E. Church in Philadelphia. He communicated this idea to some of the younger members of his congregation and they seized upon it enthusiastically.

The idea was to have an entire week devoted to a series of lectures with a distinguished Negro author speaking each night and a comprehensive exhibit of books by and about Negroes. The members and committee decided that the lecture and exhibit should be held at the church and a nominal admission fee charged to cover expenses. The purpose of the week should be "to encourage the young Negro to greater aspiration in the field of literature; to acquaint the citizens of Phil-"adelphia with the achievements of Negroes in literature; and to increase interest in the same".

That such an idea could be successfully put over caused a little doubt in the minds of the promoters, as lectures are not exactly popular among Philadelphia colored people. Concerts, dramas, and the purely social affairs, as dances, etc., are often successes, financially and otherwise. But to have five lectures in nightly succession and *charge* for them seemed, in advance, indicative of failure.

Preparations for a big Negro Authors' Week were started, however, and eight prominent authors were invited to appear during the week of December 7. A committee of young people was formed in the church, and patrons' committee composed of Philadelphia citizens was organized. Each member of the latter committee sent to the secretary a list of from ten to twenty names of persons who would probably be interested in Negro Authors Week to the extent of becoming a patron by purchasing two season tickets. A mailing list was compiled in this way, which, though not very extensive (numbering hardly five hundred names in all) was nevertheless valuable. A high percentage of persons responded with checks to the letters sent them. Through the contributions of patrons there was enough money to meet expenses the week before the first lecture was given.

Advertisement took the form largely of correspondence although the press provided advance notices. Announcements were sent through the churches and the public schools, and free admission tickets for the children were given to those schools whose principals asked for them. Some teachers had exhibits of colored authors' pictures in their classrooms,

The Week opened Monday night, December 7, with Mr. James Weldon Johnson as the speaker on "The Negro in Art and Literature", and Mr. Arthur Huff Fauset, a public school principal and • author, presiding. A large and enthusiastic audience of white and colored people met Mr. Johnson, whose delightful manner, "charmingly nonchalant" as it was described by one enthusiastic youngster, completely won over his listeners.

Tuesday night, Dr. Kelly Miller of Howard University, spoke on the subject of "The Negro Writing in His Own Defense". Dr. Miller gave an informing talk on the development of journalism among Negroes.

Wednesday night brought the largest audience of the week. Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois of THE CRISIS was the speaker on "The Opportunities for the Negro in the Field of Fiction". The speaker defended the failure of the Negro writer to measure up fully to standards of genuine artistry. "Publishers now refuse to publish books of Negro writers unless they are the type he feels will appeal to the white reader. The Negro writer, therefore, must produce a book in which the picture drawn of the Negro dovetails with the mental picture the whites have of the Negro". Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson presided.

On Thursday night the subject of "Negro History" was capably handled by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the historian and director of the Associated Publishers of Washington, D. C. Dr. Woodson reviewed for his hearers the various problems of Negro research.

Friday night was Poets' Night. A number of local poets read their compositions. The audience was disappointed at the absence of Langston Hughes, who was ill, but again became enthusiastic under the spell of Dr. Leslie P. Hill's introduction to the subject of Negro poetry. Mrs. Georgia Douglass Johnson, of Washington, charmed the audience with a delightfully intimate and personal sketch of various present day poets of her own acquaintance.

In addition to the lectures, a large exhibit of books was offered. About two dozen publishers cooperated by sending their publications by and about Negroes. The Library of Congress sent a collection of books for exhibit and the local colored newspapers lent files and old editions of their papers for exhibition. ×G

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These books were put on exhibit in the small lecture rooms surrounding the main auditorium and were classified as follows: Fiction, Poetry, Biography, History and Sociology, Religion, Music, Drama, Journalism, Philadelphia Authors, Government Exhibit, and Rare books, including Ph.D. theses and old books, some of the latter over 100 years old.

The sale of books, however, did not come up to the rather large expectation of the committee, and many had to be returned to the publishers. This may have been due, partly of course, to the general economic depression, but it was also indicative of what almost every speaker during the week had stated -that Negroes have not yet reached the stage where they will buy books in anything like large numbers. Nevertheless there is no reason to doubt that a very real and perhaps far-reaching interest was stimulated by this exhibit which gave hundreds of Negroes the chance to see the literary productions of their race.

The most popular authors as far as sales went, were James Weldon John-son, Carter G. Woodson, Arthur Fauset, and W. E. B. Du Bois. The publisher whose books proved most salable was the Associated Publishers, Inc., of Washington, D. C., a Negro concern. Sales in fiction were surprisingly low. Poetry was most popular, and history and sociology ranked next. This was probably due to the fact that many persons buying were making their first contacts with Negro literature and when they asked the sales people for recommendations of good books, they were usually directed to some anthology, or history of literature.

The attendance at the meetings averaged about 300 people a night. Of the total attendance of 1500, the committee estimated that about 1200 of the number attended at least one lecture. Quite a few patrons, incidentally, attended three or four lectures and some were present every night.

We do not hesitate to say that if such a Negro Authors Week under efficient management should be held every year in a hundred American cities, the sutlook for Negro literature would be entirely revolutionized.

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THE POET'S PAGE

Jim Crow Jesus (Jacksonville, Florida) By KENNETH W. PORTER

"PROTESTANTS, Catholics, Jews, must all unite

In one protest against the unholy fight Waged on religion by the Soviet!

- Yes, and by bloodshed if need be! But yet
- From persecution's flames, there will, I feel,
- Come forth a nobler and a stronger zeal And the hard paths on which the martyrs trod

Will lead us all unto the Living God,

To recognize as one that Final Good To which we all may bow in brotherhood. . . ."

The preacher's thunders, richly eloquent, Rolled through the door, to where on the cement

A passing Negro paused, caught by the words.

And lingered there a space, as winter birds

Anticipate a shaken table-cover.

Out tip-toed then one of the males who hover

On unspecific duties in church aisles (Their faces clad in decent starchy

smiles). And "Ah!" thought I, "this good man

- comes in quest, No doubt, of this black brother as a
- guest, Informing him that just inside the door
- A seat awaits, where he with somewhat more Comfort may hear the message of the
- day." So, drawing near, I heard the kind soul

say These words of fellowship (you need

- not search Far, I am sure, to match this Christian
- scene): "You goddam nigger, what in hell d'you mean
- By listening outside a white man's church?"

Ditch-Digger By ESTHER POPEL

"POOR devil!"—This they call you As they stand, these lesser men Who could not bear the strain Of sweating toil and its monotony, Watching the rhythmic swing Of your strong arms and Mighty, earth-daubed hands That grip and guide Your pick-axe up and down— And down—and up—and down— And up—and down—and

April, 1931

Up—and down— To fashion from resistant earth And rock—a cesspool!

Must Be Comin' Spring By BARBARINA BRYANT

WARMER breezes dance and frolic, Happy birds now flit and sing, Buds appear on twig and treetop, Must be comin' Spring.

Farmers in the fields a'working, Husky boys with kite and string, Lazy cow in dale and meadow, Must be comin' Spring.

Fishes in the brooklets splashing, Violets by the pathway spring, Lovers roam o'er hill and valley, Must be comin' Spring.

Portrait

By JESSIE CARTER

- I HAVE a picture of a great, great man Who looks from out the frame upon my wall
- Straight toward the east to greet the rising sun

And inevitable dawn.

I have no picture of this great man's hands,

The members through which His gifts of verse must finally reach The world and me.

I begged a picture of a great, great man, He sent his head, and kept his hands.

Year's End and Years' End By PAUL A. WREN

- NOW we have done with the seasons and are fallow
- For the eternities. Never the sun again, tho dip the swallow,
- Tho suns slant on seas. O passionate pilgrims pursuing a fictive

west, How should we know it buried in our breast?

- Time is over now, and space is done with,
- And ease no need for ease;
- Counterfeit passions, clumsy hounds we have run with, Rest now by rooted trees.
- How have we split our seed, in what wild ways where
- The sterile tombs of our dreams make dark the air!

Take up the old processional of forms here;

Let no one shirk this road.

With flowers that blanch for prescience of worms here,

And glitter of the goad,

O let us seek the Absolute and cry Our sufferance of the whole futility.

Swamp Songs

By ROLF FREDERIC COBOURNE

T HIS is the song of the swamp, This is the trend of its call, Out from the thicket of cypress, Full throated voices that call:

I am the black creeping mud, The endless oozing of slime; My land is a part untouched, I am the martyr to Time.

I am the dark—the unknown, My lands shall remain unsown; I am the something no one claims, I with my shadow-discarded names.

I am the unmarked, the bog, Black tangled—whitely wrapped in fog. I am without kin or friend And thus shall I be until the end.

But . . . see in my darkest corners Breast bones and skull bones—gleaming white. Come to me and my singing

Under the cover of night.

I am the black creeping mud. The endless oozing of shime. My land is a part untouched. I am the martyr to Time.

Little Black Mother By ETHYLE PORTER WEEDE

LITTLE black motther What do you care Where you are quartered Or how you may fare—

Only to touch, To see, and to know Where He lies sleeping Your pilgrimage go.

Little black mother Kneel by his grave Forgetting, forgiving— The Master forgave.

I think, if I know A white mother's heart, The crosses Out There Won't keep you apart.

The Moving Finger

A Story

By A. BRUCE SCHUYLER

• WAS the sunset hour.

The girl, with a weary gesture, drew the French creation from her head and stood still-the dying sun vermillion and saffron-like cast shadows over the scene that met her eye. As she stood, the violet shades of evening gathered; night stretched forth fingers and sprinkled myriads of silver stars across the canopy of sky. All around stood giant trees, spectrallike and ghostly. On the right and on the left, behind and before, rose the mountains, spectral too, and swathed in azure vapor, mysterious! Here and there a light gleamed in miniature like tiny ignis-fatus continually on the wing. The lights were from the huts on the mountains.

These huts were the homes of her people! After eight years in another world, why did she have to return? Devonne had been asking herself for the last half hour. She had known all along what she was coming to. After eight years she realized she was no longer a mountaineer. Thanks to the kind "furrin'" white lady who had named her, she had been sent "off" to school.

Swiftly she reviewed the time spent away: First at Larne which was still in the mountains, but with two years of high school, then college. She remembered the first day—how the girls stared at her corn silk colored hair and her blue eyes. She remembered their audible whispers: "Looks like a white girl!" She remembered their queer glances at each other when she told them that her mother was white. Then again: "From Kentucky and mother white!"

"Thars heaps that-a-way yonder whar I cum frum," she told them quietly, "Pap, he's a 'nigger' and thars ten o' us young 'uns. Thars Tim Walker, he's a 'nigger' an' he got married three times, an' all o' his wimmen was white."

She remembered how hard it was at first. She had to learn that the Negroes in the world outside the mountains resented the use of the word "nigger." All her life she had just accepted it to mean "of the Negro race." She had been saying it and hearing it said by the white mountaineers in speaking of colored people without intent of disrespect. She found that her language was not the language of the outside world, her dress was not their

dress, their homes were different from the crude hut of her parents on the mountainside. Now after eight years she was back. Back with her memories of another world and her hopeless love for "Link".

Lincoln Grey was a brilliant planet in college life—one of the most popular chaps on the campus. His father was a prominent colored doctor in the college town and his mother was a leader in their social circle. Link graduated her first year in the college department. He continued his studies in the north until he had obtained his Ph.D. Offered a position in his *Alma Mater*, he accepted and during Devonne's senior year they became intimate.

"Coon! Haint yer a fine gal neow!" Devonne was startled from her reverie by this crude hailing from Dan Morgan who drove the mail wagon. "Coon" was the name her family and the mountain folk had called her by since she could remember.

"Why, how do you do, Mr. Morgan."

"Mister Morgan! Mister Morgan! Wal neow what ails yew, little gal? Yer actin' like a furriner since yer been away."

She remembered now. Even the sheriff was just "Joe" to everyone white and colored—in these parts. Dan Morgan was white but even as a child she had called him "Dan."

"I have been away a long time, Dan," she said, "but I don't want to act like a 'furriner.' I am home now until fall, then I'll start teaching. How can I get over to Hyton?"

"Yew'll hafter wait 'til mornin', I 'low. My hosses an' wagons out yonder summers an' yew kin ride over when I go atta the mail. Come on, I'll be a-taking yer over t' Charlie Eversoles. His woman be a-ailing right smart but thars a couple o' grown gals thet'll take care o' ye. Yew recollect Lou Emma and Mae, I reckon."

As Devonne followed him slowly she reflected. Charlie Eversole and family were white but it would not keep her from sitting with them at their table, probably sleeping with the oldest girl, or joining them in their gathering around the fire.

Finally they reached the house. There was no porch and Devonne became sickly aware that the house was battered and old and worn just as she

would find her own home. She knew she would find the floors bare, chairs scarce, everything crude. . .

They laughed over her; stared at her—at her chic clothes and her up-tothe-minute traveling bag. They noted her "furrin" way of talking. "Git Coon a cheer, Lou Emma.

"Git Coon a cheer, Lou Emma. Tote in a leetle more coal, Chester. Sho' is coolish fer June. I 'low yer maw'll be right smart glad to see yer, Coon. Yew do look plime-blank lak yer Aunt Sissy."

On the mail wagon next morning Devonne felt alone, out of place. What would Lincoln or Dr. and Mrs. Grey think of her people and their way of living? She would be seven hours getting home and only sixteen miles! She lived at the county-seat but the condition of the roads were such that there had never been a car even on the main street. She was glad Link would never know. These crude people, these crude homes!

It was afternoon when she came in view of her home. Devonne quickly dropped her face in her hands. How she had hoped for a change that would be so pleasant it would surprise her. But everything was almost just the same. The house perhaps was a little more weatherbeaten, uglier than when she last saw it; more windows out and more rags stuffed in the holes. Devonne's heart beat so fast that she could hardly breathe. And to think she had to stay there! She had no money to go elsewhere. She was not strong enough to work this summer as she had other summers. This had driven her back to her mountain home. The doctor had said she was overworked and needed rest. The only place she knew to go was Hyton,back to her mother. What would they all think?

In the doorway she paused and drank in the scene that greeted her: the bare-looking room with its crude furniture and carpetless floor; the dusty organ in the corner; the gray-haired woman who sat in the chimney corner, her portly figure cleanly but crudely attired, placidly smoking her pipe. For an instant Devonne wavered.

"Ma!"

"Wal now, ef hit aint my Coon!" the woman drawled, her face lighting up. "Coon! My but yew do look lak a 'furriner'!" She laughed and took the pipe from her mouth. "Sissy!

THE CRISIS

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Mollie! Hyars Coon back t'hum!"

The girl felt strangely out of place. Her sister Mollie and Aunt Sissy stared at her just as they had done at Eversoles.

"Wal now," Sissy said, "Haint hit nice to have yer bac' t'hum!"

"Aint she pretty-looks like a furriner," Mollie repeated. "Git John," her mother said.

"He's back yonder at th' coal bank adiggin' coal. Yer pap'll be mighty glad to see yew, Richard?, Mollie. yew, Coon. Whars Nobodys t'hum with me but Richard and Mollie."

Devonne could hear her sister call-

"Pap! Pap! Err pap! Coon's back. Whars Richard?"

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RISIS

Her father came in rugged, bent, tobacco juice in the corners of his mouth. He spat on the floor and wiped his mouth with the back of his hand, then came forward.

"Ef hit aint Coon, doggin' my cats! Wal neow !"

In the days that followed Devonne found herself getting worse instead of The doctor's tonic did not better. seem to help and presently she noticed a nauseated feeling in the pit of her stomach. Then came the day when she knew.

To Devonne it seemed the end of things. For days her physical and mental suffering was so acute that she could eat nothing at all. Her "pap' wished to take her to Bentons to a doctor, but she would not go. Most of the night she stayed awake and when she dropped off into slumber from sheer exhaustion it was only to be awakened by troubled dreams. She moaned in her sleep.

What was she to do? Write to Link? It seemed unthinkable. If she wrote and he did come! She shivered when she thought of the house and her people. How could Link wish to marry her when he found out everything? He wouldn't! And she couldn't write! She had no money to leave home, and crude though the mountaineers were, they had a code of honor. She shivered to think of her life if the people around found out what had happened to her. John Salyer's daughter-been to college and then turned out worse than the most ignorant mountain girl? Been to col-lege! Been to college! Then this! She had cried and prayed until it seemed that nothing existed of her body but a husk. Then indeed did she agree with the poet:

"The Moving Finger writes; and having writ.

Moves on; nor all your Piety nor wit Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line Nor all your Tears wash out a Word

of it." "No," she moaned in her sleep, "no April, 1931

tears can wash out a word of it."

The first of August she wrote Link. It was a pitiful, hopeless letter full of pathos. It ended:

"I only ask your advice. I have no one else in all the world to turn to and I cannot bear to try to think anymore. I have reached the breaking point."

The answer nearly caused her to collapse. It was a telegram:

"Cheer up little girl. Leaving here today. See you soon.

Link.

Link coming! Already on the way! "Oh God," she whispered, "Can I bear this? Link would see her home and her people! She thought of his home and the luxuries that were as nothing to him; of her own in its rugged ugliness and starkness; of Doctor and Mrs. Grey with their air of cul-ture and refinement; of her own mother and father and their uncouth mountain ways. She thought of evening at the Grey home; the many lights cheerfully burning; the radio; the doctor placidly reading the paper; Mrs. Grey lying luxuriously back in an easy chair, trim ankles crossed, talking softly to Link. She thought of evening at her own home; the family gathered around the door in the twilight; her mother smoking the inevitable pipe and nursing baby in a straight chair; of her father chewing tobacco, now and then stopping to send a streak of spittal to the right or left; of Richard strumming the guitar and singing, -the soft drawl of his voice and the cadence of the music causing the others to keep time or sing with him.

"Darlin', yer can't love but one"; or perhaps to peal forth the powers of "John Henry" who "died with a hammer in his hand-died with a hammer in his hand!"



Esther Junger in James Weldon Johnson's Go Down Death

That next day Devonne was in a fever of excitement. She grew alternately hot and cold thinking of the situation.

"Link will be here tomorrow," she said over and over to herself, there's nothing I can do to stop him."

That night she told her mother that a young man she had met in school was coming for a few days. The news, as she expected, created no undue amount of excitement-no unusual preparation.

She met the mail wagon next day and it seemed that her legs would wobble out from under her and that the pit of her stomach would drop out. Her heart began to beat a quick tattoo and suffocate the region nearest her throat. Right beside Dan rode Link with a broad smile on his good-looking brown face. The feelings that the girl experienced were mingled relief and fear. Although she had braved thinking of the situation alone for two months, she could not feel that after seeing her home and people and their life, Link would do the only possible thing to remedy her plight. "Why, little girl," he said, "You

aren't being cheerful as I told you. Look at this long face and these tragic eyes!" Then he laughed and took her arm.

"Is there a funeral? Don't I get a better welcome than this, Dee?"

The girl stopped and looked at him uncertainly.

"Well, yes, I'm so worried, Link. ou see-----" for an instant her voice You seetrailed off and he prompted her. "Yes?" Then she went on in a rush:

"You won't find it here as you might expect to find it. Everything is crude—even my mother and father things will seem primitive to you. You will hate everything-the roughness and uncouthness of these people, their ignorance will jar on your nerves. I can imagine how you will feel towards me when you see how things are. I've thought of it until I'm sick-I'm so ashamed for you to see--!" her voice was quivering when she stopped and her eyes were full of tears. "Why, Dee child," he said, and al-

though his voice was husky, there was a smile on his face, "I have always known. You remember when you first came to school, you chummed with Dorothy Lee-she's my cousin. From your confidences Dorothy learned much about the life here and your home and people. She told me. Nothing matters to me but your happiness. Ready to go home now?"

As his lips lingered on hers, the little mountain girl's troubles seemed to silently steal away. Her mind wandered, dreaming beautiful things, she would not have the Moving Finger cancel half a line.

ALONG THE COLOR LINE

EUROPE

5

■ A recent debate in the French Chamber raised by Socialists disclosed the fact that sanitary conditions of colored labor in French Equatorial Africa are so poor that twenty thousand native workers died during the construction of the Brazzaville Railway. In reply, the French Minister stated that forced labor among private colonial enterprises had been prohibited since August, and of that still utilized by the Government, seventy per cent of the native help is voluntary.

Mille. Nadine Waters has attracted favorable comment in the French press for perfect French diction lately exhibited in her series of vocal recitals.
 Josephine Baker has been chosen by the Fetes Committee of Paris to be Queen of the Colonies during the coming colonial exposition.

G George W. Lattimore, a Negro

artist who returned to France from a three-year tour of Spain, Morocco and Africa, served on the Committee of the Bal des Petits Lits Blancs, which is the most prominent yearly charitable event staged in France. Other colored artists appearing on the program were Lulu Gould, Louis Cole, Layton and Johnson, Josephine Baker, and musicians from the orchestras at L'Abbaye, Chez Bricktop and Boeuf sur le Toit.

AMERICA

¶ James Lesesne Wells, who is an instructor of Art at Howard University, Washington, D. C., received an Award in Fine Arts of the William E. Harmon Awards for Distinguished Achievement Among Negroes. This consists of a gold medal and a \$400 honorarium granted by the Harmon Foundation of New York, as one of the awards in a series covering eight fields of Negro creative work.

R

Lilliam A. Dorsey, an eighteen-year old high school girl of Stamford, Connecticut, won the Otto H. Kahn Prize of \$250, which is given under the sponsorship of the Harmon Foundation. Miss Dorsey's prize-winning picture is a self-portrait.

The Locke Portrait Prize of \$100 was awarded to Edwin A. Harleston of Charleston, South Carolina, for his picture, "The Old Servant". The Arthur B. Spingarn Prize of

The Arthur B. Spingarn Prize of \$50 for work in black and white was given to Mr. Robert Savonpious of Chicago, Illinois, for a portrait of Roland Hayes, and the Commission Prize of \$50 for Photographic Work was granted to Mr. James L. Allen of New York City. These prize pieces were shown at the recent exhibition of the work of Negro artists at the Art Center, New York City.



The School for Children Actors in "The Green Pastures"

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THE CRISIS

C Dr. William John Cooper, Commissioner of Education, called a conference of the National Advisory Committee on the Education of Negroes February 23-24. Discussion centered around policy and function of the Office of Education, and a national survey concerning the present status of secondary education among Negroes that is being made by Dr. Ambrose Caliver.

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n of Art The American Board of Commis- sioners for Foreign Missions has acknowledged a gift of \$500 from Dr. Pauline E. Dinkins of Selma, Ala- bama, to be used to finance a mater- nity ward in the hospital which is to be erected at Galange, West Central Africa.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity has announced its annual award of Recipients of these scholarships. Isaac M. Hutchison of awards are: Charleston, South Carolina; Miss Lurrah Coffield of Indianapolis, Indiana; Joseph N. Pines of Cleveland, Ohio; Rupert A. Lloyd of Phoebus, Virginia; Harold Johnson of Lansing, Michigan; Thebaud Jeffers of Charlotte, North Carolina; Miss Julia E. Hatcher of Fort Valley, Georgia; Miss Ruth Lankford-Redd of Hannibal, Missouri, and Bernard Goss of Kansas City, Missouri.

€ "God Sends Sunday" by Arna Bontemps and "Black No More", a brilliant satire on Negro life, by George S. Schuyler are the two latest books by Negroes to be published.

I Negro History Week, which began February 8, was formally opened by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History with a program at Ford Hall Forum, Boston, Massachusetts. Other programs of a similar nature were held in Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo, Richmond, Pittsburgh, and many other cities. The observance of Negro History Week was first begun by the Association in 1926.

(The International Labor Defense conducted a ten-day Solidarity Drive during February for the purpose of uniting Negro and white workers in a struggle against lynching and discrimination.

(Mrs. G. B. Seligman has made a donation of \$10,000 to the National Urban League for the general expansion of its program.

The American Inter-racial Peace Committee has announced its Second Annual essay contest for 1931, which is open to students of Senior High

CRISIS

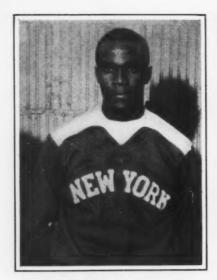


Juan Gualberto Gomez. See page 123

School, Freshman and Sophomore College rank. The general subject is "The World Talks Peace but Thinks War. What is the Remedy?"

THE EAST

I The management of "The Green Pastures" company of the Mansfield Theater, New York City, conducts a schoolroom backstage, where children in the cast can do their school work. Pupils in "The Green Pastures" school are: Phillistine Bumgardner, Marjorie Bumgardner, Fredia Longshaw, Margerette Thrower, Viola Lewis, Ruby Davis, Willmay Davis, Wilbur Cohen, Jr., Verdon Perdue, Alicia Escamilla, Reginald Blythwood, Howard Washington, Joe Byrd, "Jazzlips" Richardson, Jr. Inez Richardson Wilson, who appears in the cast as "Eve" and who formerly taught in Public School No. 5 in Harlem, is in charge.



Phil Edwards

€ One of the most creditable performances by an amateur group was rendered by the Harlem Players in February at the 135th Street Branch Public Library, New York City. This group is under the direction of Richard Huey, formerly of "Porgy", and now in the cast of "Five Star Final".

Through the generosity of a friend, the West 137th Street Branch of the Y. W. C. A. since last December has been conducting a work shop for unemployed girls. The applicants have been so numerous that although the shop was originally set up for only thirty workers, the number has been stretched to fifty by allowing girls to work in three, two and one-day shifts, according to their needy circumstances. The Fund has also been stretched by spending very little for materials, most materials being supplied by institutions having work done in the shop. A hot noonday meal is given each girl on the day she works. There is still a long waiting list.

■ In the New York City Athletic Club games on February 16, Gus Moore of Brooklyn ran the second fastest two-mile that any American has ever achieved. The time was 9:11 minutes and three-fifths seconds. This is the seventh consecutive long distance race that Moore has won this season.

I Phil Edwards, representing Canada, during the National A. A. W. meet held at Madison Square Garden, N. Y. C., on February 25, was the winner in the 600-yard run. Sera Martin of France finished second.

THE BORDER STATES

€ The Howard University appropriation from the United States Department of the Interior is \$1,560,000. An additional sum of \$200,000 for physical improvements to grounds is included in the first efficiency bill, making a total of \$3,009,000 appropriated during the last two years. Four hundred thousand dollars of the present sum is for the construction of a library and the completion of an educational classroom building.

The dramatic club of Union Uni-

versity appearing in Ibsen's "Ghosts" under the auspices of Morgan College, Baltimore, Maryland, marks the first of a series of dramatic exchanges among the Negro Inter-Collegiate Dramatic Association, which was organized last year.

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THE SOUTHEAST

 ∏ The Commercial Bank and Trust Company and the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, which was for- merly the St. Luke's Bank and Trust Company, Richmond, Virginia, have merged into a new financial institution. The Second Street Branch and the Commercial Bank of Richmond some time ago were absorbed in one of the banks that has effected this merger.

■ A no-decision debate on "The Present Unemployment Situation is an Inherent Weakness in the Capitalistic System" was held at Bluefield, West Virginia, between Johnson C. Smith University and the Bluefield Institute. This opens the fourth session of the debating at the college.

■ The Safe Bus Company, owned and controlled by Negroes, has been granted a municipal franchise to operate as a street railway company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The organization has thirty-two busses, a garage and machine shop, and is valued at \$100,000.

■ A group of representative South Carolina women, representing nine religious denominations and six civic organizations, met in Charleston during the early part of February and adopted the following resolutions:



From "Koubikon" a new Russian Soviet film of Belgoskino with a Negro actor THE CRISIS

"1. We, as southern women representing churches and civic organizations, deeply deplore the rise in the tide of mob violence which has receded so notably since the beginning of the present century.

"2. We abhor and repudiate the use of the expression protection for the white women of the South, as a cloak for mob violence.

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"3. We urge the adoption of some uniform methods by the southern states in the prevention of lynching; through the action of governors and other officials, through the passage of suitable laws, and through the upbuilding of public sentiment to remove this stain from our boasted civilization.

"4. We recommend that South Carolina women join the other southern states in a southwide movement of women for the extirpation of lynching, and request that these resolutions or others of similar import be presented for endorsement to all local and state groups of women, civic or religious."

€ West Southern Pines, South Carolina, is a town incorporated, owned and inhabited entirely by Negroes. Since its incorporation in 1927, a municipal building and grounds were purchased by the town and many civic improvements made. The mayor is J. E. Hasty who is serving his second term.

■ Judge E. E. Pomroy of Fulton County Superior Court, Atlanta, Georgia, has passed a rule declaring that the segregation of Negroes is unconstitutional and enjoined the Atlanta Chief of Police against carrying out the ordinance which interferes with the residence of Negroes on certain streets already occupied by whites.

C Albert S. Baker, an agriculture student of the Brooks County Training School, Georgia, won the first prize in both the cotton and corn contests sponsored by the Georgia State Board for Vocational Education and the Chilean Nitrate and Soda Educational Bureau. Baker raised 190 bushels of corn on two acres, and 1,749 pounds of



C. J. Jenkins. See page 132

lint cotton on two acres. His average yield was 95 bushels of corn and 974.5 pounds of lint cotton per acre. He received a \$100 prize.

THE MIDDLE SOUTH

● The Committee on Law and Order of the Tennessee Commission on Interracial Co-operation at their January meeting declared lynching to be a "Prima Facie" evidence of negligence on the part of the proper officials and advocated the passage of a law providing for suspension of the proper officer in the event of a lynching.

An Anti-Lynching bill has recently been offered in the Tennessee Legislature by which officers will be held solely responsible for failure to protect the prisoner. If the officer allows his prisoner to be taken from him and lynched, ouster proceedings are to be filed against the officer within ten days from the time of lynching.

€ Victor H. Tulane, one of the leading business men of Montgomery, Alabama, died January 9, 1931. Mr. Tulane owned a mercantile business and operated a real estate agency. He was for many years a trustee of Tuskegee Institute and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hale Infirmary.

■ A charge of peonage has been entered against planters of Coushatta, Red River Parish, Louisiana, for holding Negro laborers and share croppers for alleged indebtedness.

I The death of Dr. Daniel Webster Sherrod of Meridian, Mississippi, marks the passing of one of the great citizens of that state. He was affiliated with several fraternal orders; a member of the Mississippi Race News Bureau; an active Republican, in both the state and national conventions, as well as a practicing physician who accumulated considerable wealth. Dr. Sherrod was formerly a member of the United States Board of Examining Physicians for Meridian, Mississippi.

THE FAR WEST

 ① The Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at Colorado Teachers' College has again attained the highest scholarship average among sororities on the campus. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the Alpha Kappa Chapter has ranked first. In 1929-30, the College discontinued the award of the scholarship cup which had previously been given to ranking Greek Letter organizations.

I Homer Gaines, colored boxer, is now lightweight champion of the California Coast. He defeated Joe Guerro, the Mexican champion and holds the diamond-studded crown which goes with the two-year championship title.



Victor H. Tulane

April, 1931



Albert B. George See page 132



James Lesesne Wells, See page 128



George S. Schuyler See page 129



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THE SOUTH WEST

The Mathematics Department of Dunbar High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, has begun a research project on the Negro in Mathematics. Holders of Master's degrees in Mathematics or other outstanding workers in this field are asked to contribute information to the project.

I Negroes in Dallas, Texas, have formed a Committee to relieve the unemployment situation as it affects the Negro worker in that city. Through the Committee's efforts, the United States Employment Bureau has opened an office for Negroes and is finding employment for applicants.

Charles J. Jenkins was born in Austin, Texas, October 4th, 1897. His father, Samuel J. Jenkins was a lawyer and political figure in the nineties in Texas.

After his father's death, Mr. Jenkins came to Chicago in 1904 with his mother who afterwards married Lawyer T. G. Maxwell. He attended the Douglas School and the Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago. He graduated from Bishop College in Marshall, Texas in 1919, and from Chicago Kent College of Law in 1922.

He was for three years Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Cook County Bar Association.

During his years of practice at the Bar, he has been associated with the late Sheadrick B. Turner and Judge Albert B. George.

He married Miss Cynthia Flower of Louisiana and they have one son, Charles J. Jenkins, Jr.

THE MIDDLE WEST

■ B. O. Davis, Jr. of Chicago, Illinois has been nominated by Congressman Oscar DePriest for entrance to West Point Military Academy. Young Davis graduated from the Central High School, Cleveland, Ohio, and afterward entered Western Reserve University, Chicago.

I Albert Bailey George, former judge of Chicago, Illinois, has been appointed by Governor Emerson as a member of the Illinois State Board of Paroles and Pardons.

C A Rosenwald Fellowship for study of nature types as subjects for mural decorations has been granted William Edouard Scott of Chicago.

I The Rosenwald Fellowship obtained by John Green, Chicago baritone last year has been continued for another year in order that he may complete his studies at the Cosmopolitan

School of Music and Dramatic Art, Chicago.

 ① The Wendell Phillips High School of Chicago, Illinois is in the Negro district of the South Side and is at- tended almost exclusively by colored children. The faculty is composed of colored and white teachers. The school excels in athletics and music and although repeated efforts are made to exclude their colored pupils from citywide competition it is not always suc- cessful. Last year the University of Chicago excluded their basketball team simply because of the color prejudice of Coach Stagg.

This year the Sixth Annual Competition Festival of the Senior High School Choral groups of the city of Chicago was held at Orchestra Hall. Phillips entered the small mixed chor-They had a chorus of 55 voices uses. trained and led by Mildred Bryant Jones, Director of Music. All the choruses sang the same "contest number"-Cherubin's "Bless our Soul" and one of their own choosing, which in the case of Wendell Phillips was Grieg's "Land Sighing". The result was that Wendell Phillips won. The supervisor of city vocal music said it was the best group of singers "that has ever sung in Chicago schools." The supervisor of instrumental music called the performance "most thrilling. It was in my estimation the outstanding feature of the entire show." The judges were Cyrena Van Gordon, Vanni-Marcoux and Rene Maison of the Chicago Civic Opera.

■ Douglas Stubbs, a graduate of Dartmouth College and of the Harvard University Medical College, has been appointed as an interne in the Cleveland City Hospital. Dr. Stubbs' appointment is the result of a six years' effort to have colored internes included in Cleveland city hospital staffs.

■ A Founders' Day program held on February 24 at Wilberforce University celebrated seventy-five years of the college's incorporation under the joint directorate of the A.M.E. and M.E. churches. Wilberforce has progressed from a theological seminary to a college including liberal arts, education, commerce, agriculture, music and theology. It has a student body of more than 750 and a faculty of 100 members.

AFRICA

 ¶ Mr. O. Jibowu is the first Nigerian to be appointed Police Magistrate in Nigeria it was announced unofficially in Lagos. Mr. Jibowu is a graduate of Oxford, obtaining his B.H. in 1922, his B.C.L. in 1923 and his M.A. in 1927. He was called to the Bar in 1923, in which year he returned to Nigeria to practice.

■ An exhibition recently held in Paris features the results of M. Emile Moniers' art tour through Dahomey, French Niger, Haute Volta, and the Ivory Coast two years ago. Perpetuating artistically the many human types he encountered during his trip in metal, granite, African walnut or other suitable wood, Mr. Monier supports the reminder issued by the authors and artists of "White Africans and Black" that West Africa can provide models that are as artistically fine as any in the world.

I At a ceremony attended by the Princes of the blood and the chief nobles, all the feudal chieftains in person or by proxy proclaimed Asfoon Wosdn, the eldest son of the Emperor, Prince and Heir to the Throne of Ethiopia at Addis Ababa.

■ An ordinance re-affirming the illegality of slavery has been enacted by the Government throughout the Colony, Ashanti Northern Terribouis and the British Sphere of Togoland.

I William Hunt, senior Negro Foreign Service Member, stationed at St. Michael, has been assigned as consul and second secretary of the American Legation at Monrovia under Minister Charles E. Mitchell. Mr. Hunt, who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, entered the diplomatic service nearly forty years ago. He has not simply been transferred to Liberia but transferred out of the consular service into the diplomatic service at a salary of \$4,000.

I The government of Ethiopia is offering for sale its complete stock of stamps remaining from the four issues since the establishment of the Ethiopian international postal service.

I Mr. Horrabin, Socialist member of Parliament, recently explained in a speech the situation in Kenya, West Africa. He said that the history of Europe for five hundred years had been bottled into ten years in Kenya. Five-

THE CRISIS

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has ju April, sixths of the Colony was healthy highlands. This had been seized by the whites and the Africans compelled to work on these lands in order to live. They were paid about ten shillings a month and must pay a money tax to the state. The settlers of Kenya have sent a deputation to England demanding self-government. This means that 2,000 Europeans demand absolute control over 2,800,000 Africans and limited control of 22,000 Indians.

■ The *Cape Argus* of the Union of South Africa publishes a three-column interview with the Editor of THE CRISIS by Julian Mockford. It treats the subject of what the black American thinks of South Africa.

(In Johannesburg, South Africa, there have been issued 60,000 licenses to carry firearms to the Europeans and practically none to the Negroes. This has led to frequent and unpunished shooting of natives.

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■ The Nationalists of South Africa have decided to give their moral support to the English Labor Government's report on Kenya, because they think that a definite line must be drawn between white and black Africa. They want to set the Northern part of the Belgian Congo with Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika, into a black Africa, while south of that there shall be a white Africa. The blacks will be encouraged to go to the northern territories and the whites to the southern.

■ The Catholic White Fathers, formed by the great Cardinal Lavigerie, have celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their work in the Belgian Congo. During this time they have sent to the Congo, 407 missionaries, of whom 116 have died. They maintain in Africa 45 stations, with 177 white priests, 18 black priests, 94 white sisters, and 32 native sisters. During 1929, 95,578 children attended their schools and 806,429 persons were attended in their hospitals.

C The fortune of Mr. Doherty who recently died in British West Africa was greatly exaggerated in the first reports in which he was also mistaken for a white man. According to the exact figures now published, Doherty left a fortune of about \$300,000. To each of his seven wives he left \$500 cash and \$12 a month; to each of his daughters, \$1,000. He left 42 children.

 M. A. Wetherell, an Englishman, has just completed the filming of a *April*, 1031
 moving picture called "Bula Matari." It treats the two journeys taken by Henry M. Stanley in Africa to find Livingston and the headwaters of the Congo. The film was made in Africa during seven months of hard work and involved twenty thousand miles of travel from the Indian to the Atlantic Ocean. It is said to be an historically accurate film.

① Dr. Howard W. Oxley has succeeded the late James L. Sibly as Education Advisor to the Liberian Government. He sailed for Liberia in December. Oxley is a white man from Missouri; a Ph.D. of New York University; and has done administration work among the white schools of Missouri. Recently, he was Professor of Sociology at Ohio State College and then Director of Education for the Standard Oil Company of New York.

THE WEST INDIES

Captain Stephen Albert Dillett 15 dead in the Bahama Islands, British West Indies. Captain Dillett was born in Nassau in 1849. At the age of six he entered the Boys Center School, and at twelve he was in charge of a class; then he was appointed clerk in the Post Office at a salary of \$500 a year, but he resigned and went to sea as an apprentice without wages and made his first voyage to New York. He was wrecked in 1865, but he served on other vessels until 1869 when he became Acting Deputy Inspector of Light Houses. Afterward he became First Mate on a London schooner and was in foreign service until 1874. He continued as Mate of various vessels until 1910 when he was pensioned after having served forty-three years in the Light House division. Captain Dillett was not only a seaman but wrote well, was an orator, a politician, reformer and a musician. He was correspondent for many of the local papers and for a time editor of one. He was active in war work; member of the Record Commission, and at the head of the fleet that scouted in West Indian waters for submarines during the War. At one time he was blown up with the flagship and lost an eye. Captain Dillett is an uncle of James Weldon Johnson, and the Captain's father was perhaps more well-known and distinguished than his son.

CUBA

THE National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has sent Resolutions of sympathy to the people of Cuba who are struggling against the tyranny of Machado and American investors. They have pointed out that a large percentage of Cubans are of Negro descent, and that their oppression is one with the oppression of American Negroes. To this we may add the word written by Waldo Frank to the students of the University of Havana.

I am following with deep emotion your struggle to renovate-indeed to recreate-the life of Cuba. I am poignantly aware of the terrible dilemma that confronts you. Your government is the slave of irresponsible financial interests of the United States and of the State Department at Washington which, with cynical hypocrisy, is launched on a delibcyntai nypocrisy, is taunched on a delib-erate campaign to imperialise the entire Caribbean. If your prostitute govern-ment remains in office, Cuba will con-tinue to be a "factory" for American in-vestments—a "factory" protected by no laws such as limit of exploitation on American soil: for your Cubare are pot American soil; for you Cubans are not citizens of the United States and your political "independence" more and more is coming to mean the privilege of the exploiters to work with a ruthless irresponsibility in your country which they would not dare to display in their own.



Nene Sir Emmanuel Matekole and his family of Gold Coast, British West Africa; The latest black man knighted by the British Empire

The N. A. A. C. P. and Its Officers

By President Joel E. Spingarn, Vice President James Weldon Johnson and United States Senator Robert F. Wagner

NO one can succeed to the presi-dency of this great organization without paying a tribute to the memory of Moorfield Storey, the President, under whom it began its career and flourished for twenty years. So if you will permit me, before I begin the main business of my speech, which is to report on the work of the Association, I should like to present you a little picture of the kind of man who had the destinies of this Association in his hands for so long. His record was a record of unselfish devotion to humanity regardless of race, creed or color. Almost immediately after he graduated from the Harvard Law School where, I am proud to remember, my uncle was his classmate, he became the private secretary to Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts. That was in 1867. Recall the date. The Fourteenth Amendment had just been passed and was not yet ratified. It was the work of Senator Sumner The Fifas much as of any man. teenth Amendment was about to be introduced, and during the years when Moorfield Storey was the secretary of Sumner, he was at the fountain head of all those rights for which this Association is founded.

I know there are men now—and they number among them some of the so-called great historians of our country, the Bowerses and the Beards who cast aspersion on these noble men who, with unselfish devotion, fought for the rights of the oppressed and the humble, but Moorfield Storey never changed from that day when he was a young man, young and gay. "The Education of Henry Adams" tells how he danced all night as well as worked all day. From that day until he died at the age of eighty-three he was faithful to the ideals of Sumner under whom he had his training.

First, I should like to tell you how I personally happened to join this organization. There was a poor tenant farmer in Crittenden County, Arkansas, whose name was Steve Green. He was paying five dollars a month rent to his landlord and the landlord said to him that he was going to raise the rent to nine dollars a month. Steve Green said he could not pay it, moved, and the landlord followed him and said, "If you do not work for me you cannot work for any other man." After several attempts to persuade Green to go back to his place, his forThe speeches at our annual meeting last January had a number of significant passages which we extract for the sake of our readers. Mr. Spingarn tells why he joined the N. A. A. C. P., Mr. Johnson explains his resignation and Senator Wagner congratulates the N. A. A. C. P. on its program.

mer landlord came with a gun and attempted to force him, and in the scuffle that followed Steve Green injured the landlord, who died later. Green did not know that the man had died but he knew he had hurt a white man, and so he fled through jungle and marsh, reaching Mississippi, hid for three weeks, and finally made his escape to Chicago. By some accident he was discovered, and the sheriff of Crittenden County went up and without any warrant of law seized Green, put him on the train and said as the train left, "The whole town is waiting to hang you up when you reach Crittenden County." A few people got together in Chicago and telegraphed that there would be a reward to any sheriff in Illinois who would arrest Green. Just before they crossed the Illinois line Green was arrested and freed from the Arkansas sheriff. Then there was the question as to whether he would be extradited back to Arkansas. I read that in the newspapers.

A great deal of injustice is going on all around us all the time. A man never knows by what strange current of emotion he is moved-why one injustice appeals to him more than another. But I know that at that moment I said, "I don't care what happens, Steve Green will never be extradited back to Arkansas." Then I found that a committee had just been formed to prevent such injustices. I sent them a check and said, "I want to be with you," and they elected me to their membership; and I have been there ever since.

I began with the name of Moorfield Storey and I should like to end with it. As I said before, no man can replace him; but I want the members of the Association to feel that in at least one respect they have lost nothing by a change of Presidents, and that is in loyalty to the cause for which this Association stands.

J. E. SPINGARN.

"HE Association is not merely cramped through ignorance and indifference. It frequently has to withstand direct attempts to curtail it, to hamstring it. Enemies on the outside we can deal with because we meet them face to face; but there are also enemies on the inside who strike in the dark. Only a few days ago a Negro newspaper published in Harlem carried a story stating that I was resigning from the secretaryship because of dissention within the Association-because I was disgruntled over the election of J. E. Spingarn to the presidency. Now, almost any other name than that of J. E. Spingarn would have made that story less absurd. About fourteen years ago-Mr. Spingarn alluded to it slightly; I will tell it a little more fully-a little over fourteen years Mr. Spingarn and I were brought closely together. During the summer of 1915 he organized the Amenia Conference, so named because it met at his beautiful country place at Amenia, New York, where we were entertained. Now, the Amenia Conference takes its place, a historical place, among the meetings in the United States called to consider the race question. I was invited to that conference and I attended it, and it was there that J. E. Spingarn, then chairman of our Association's Board, decided in his mind that I ought to become an official worker in this organization. He spoke to Dr. Du Bois about it and Dr. Du Bois agreed with him, and it was due to J. E. Spingarn that I became the Association's field secretary, a position that was created for me, and later its secretary. Moreover, at the Amenia Conference there began between him and me a friendship which is stronger and deeper today than ever. I say this-and I say it not only in rebuttal of the insinuation of this article I have been speaking of; I say it regardless of that-that if there is any man better suited for the presidency of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People than J. E. Spingarn I do not know him. I need not tell you anything about him. You know him fully as well if not better than you know me. But he has not been so much before us in recent years; and those of you who do not know him quite so well, you have this afternoon got the sight of the man's soul, you have got a breath of that sincerity of his which there is overcom But

went int meeting held, w truth, an been lea injecting ciation with dri no other leads mo against a -the di sort of r of thing constant able rac sess, but pride ru demagog force, a against: many ye sincere that we of them for us t we have Spingarn lards, o Darrows

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April, 19

THE CRISIS

his which will never cease so long as there is wrong and injustice to be overcome.

But this newspaper story, which went into details about a stormy board meeting which, in fact, was never held, was not concerned about the truth, and the truth could easily have been learned. It was concerned with injecting into the ranks of the Association a poison. It was concerned with driving a wedge that could have no other effect than to weaken it. This leads me to speak a word of warning against a danger that is not visionary -the danger of the cultivation of a sort of racial chauvinism, the very sort of thing in the white race that we are constantly opposing. There is a laudable race pride that we need to possess, but this racial chauvinism is race pride run amuck. In the hands of a demagogue it can be a dangerous force, a force that we must guard against; and this will be true for yet many years. We need every brave and sincere friend that we can hold and that we can make. We have too few of them now, and it is certainly not for us to bring about that day when we have no more Storeys, no more Spingarns, or Oswald Garrison Villards, or Ovingtons, or Kelleys, or Darrows. That will be a sad day for us.

With regard to my retirement from the secretaryship: some very complimentary things have been said about me by those with whom I have been associated in this work-things that would embarrass me if I did not feel and know that they were said in deep sincerity. Now, I throw aside false modesty, and I am saying that during these fourteen years of service I have striven to do my very best. I am saying that I have never stinted my efforts, my abilities or my strength; but I must also say that whatever I have been able to do I have not been able to do alone. I have had all through these years a Board of Directors whose counsel and faithfulness and

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support have never failed me. I have had a wonderful staff of colleagues, a staff not outmatched in any similar organization in this whole country. I have had the loyal cooperation of that staff.

I am not only not retiring from the Association; I see now I am receiving honorary duties. I am glad of it and that in my new relation to the work as a Vice-President and a member of the Board I shall be active in the work. This work, as it has been, will always remain for me a part of my life, a greater part of my hopes, and in a still higher degree, my religion.

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON.

In my judgment life can be made more noble, more spiritual and sublime by wiping out the unnecessary fears and worries that today cramp the soul of the average man and woman.

To reduce the existing insecurity it is not enough to be against war or against unemployment or against any other evil. That negative road is a blind alley leading nowhere. It requires the affirmative advocacy, for instance, of reduced armament by international understanding. It calls for workmen's compensation, for unemployment insurance and for old age pensions. These measures are of course not perfect. We must not permit, however, our craving for perfection to paralyze action. We must recognize that these are but means to the larger end, to be modified, superseded or supplemented as may be necessary to accomplish one of our purposes, which is greater security and the elimination of the risks which are irrelevant to the promotion of human happiness.

The word opportunity is the pivot about which revolves another group of factors that make up my conception of the better day. You might ask me: "Opportunity for what?" I cannot answer except that each of us has the

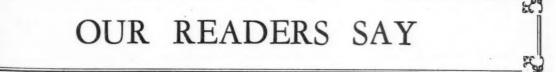
opportunity to make the most of himself. We have often honored such an ideal with our lips but have as yet allowed it only partial realization in practice. Such an objective implies that each child irrespective of the wealth or poverty of its parents, will be given a decent chance to enter freely into the competition of life. That means the utmost conservation of the health of all children. It calls for the freest access to educational institutions of every rank to all those who are capable of taking advantage of their facilities. It necessarily implies the abolition of child labor.

The first step then is to multiply the opportunities of ourselves and our children by extending to all alike the best that we can provide by way of education and training. The second step is to break down the barriers of discrimination, prejudice and intolerance which would deny to some the opportunity to which they are entitled and to destroy the favoritism and nepotism which would monopolize the available opportunities for those who have no right to them.

We cannot all be Presidents but we do want no one barred for some irrelevant reason like race, or creed or color. We cannot all be Senators but we do not want that office to become the exclusive hobby of the rich man. We cannot all be bank presidents, but we want the coveted posts of business and industry to remain accessible to all on the basis of merit.

In the practical world as we know it today there must also be the hewers of wood and drawers of water. But none of us wants his child to be branded at birth as the one who must assume that lowly office. We want an equal chance to contribute to the world the best that is in us, whatever may be our special excellence. We aim to make opportunity democratic. I congratulate your organization upon its intelligent cooperation in pursuing that goal.

ROBERT F. WAGNER.



REMOVE my name from your mailing list. I am still interested in the movement but not in the atheism of Du Bois. This continual flaunting of his atheism has made THE CRISIS a menace to a Christian home, whether black or white.

J. J. MULHOLLAND,

Wellsburg, N. Y.

April, 1931

I AM inclosing my personal check for \$1.50 as a subscription to your stimulating magazine. I find it indispensable in my studies of population and race problems.

CHAS. G. CHAKERIAN, Yale Station, New Haven, Conn. T is a pleasure for me to renew my subscription for another year for your wonderful magazine. I look forward each month for its coming and would not miss it for anything as I enjoy its contents from cover to cover and would rather miss my Sunday dinner than to miss THE CRISIS. After I have finished reading it I send it to a friend who enjoys it as much as I do.

JAMES C. DENHAM, New York.

T HIS summer I had the pleasure to meet some friends from the U. S. A., who had come to Berlin as members of the Pocono Group, and I was asked to give them a lecture about conditions in Germany at the German Reichstag.

Mrs. L. Alexander has been good enough to order THE CRISIS to be sent to me so that now I have got the first number which I have read with deepest interest. I have written to her asking whether she could put me in touch with some friends of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People willing and able to correspond with German friends, both correspondents being Socialists. And, if possible, to give me the address of a paper like yours, the Editor of whom may be willing to publish something about our movement to interest comrades in the U.S.A., in our special kind of work as outlined in The Pioneer.

> W. FLOERKE, Berlin, Germany.

THE July CRISIS is one of the best that I have had the pleasure of reading for many months. I am particularly thankful for your splendid statements on India and the Parker fight. I enjoyed so much your excellent articles on: The Commission of Interracial Co-operation, Consecrated Hypocrites and The Defeat of Judge Parker. "As the Crow Flies" is simply superb!

Although I have always appreciated the work of the N. A. A. C. P., and your fine leadership, I still feel that neither I nor the average Negro fully comprehends the value and importance of the sort of cultural and spiritual leadership which you typify for our race. What I admire and appreciate about you, Dr. Du Bois, is your deep insight into human life and human strivings and your broad sympathy and extended interest in racial and social problems. A member of a circumscribed and oppressed race, your sympathy, interests and efforts know no bounds. The struggle of the Indians under Gandhi, of the Russians under Stalin, of the Haitians under Eugene Roy, and of women under Margaret Sanger and others enlist your aid and sympathy. It is an honor, a real honor indeed, to be of the same race as you!

It is quite natural, of course, that I should not approve of all that you have written or said. No group leader wins the complete approval of his entire constituency. However, every American Negro ought to be thankful for your courageous and intelligent leadership. I for one wish to acknowledge the fact that THE CRISIS has had a greater influence on me than any other periodical in the world. It put inspiration and ambition in my very bones! The very first copy that I read back in 1911, I believe, made a great and lasting impression on me. And I honestly believe that THE CRISIS and the N. A. A. C. P., deserve the wholehearted support of every Negro in America until or unless we found a better organization for the promotion of the welfare of the race.

> THOMAS L. DABNEY, Virginia.

AM in State Prison. A little sum of money stands between me and freedom. The State Parole Board requires that I have Fifteen Dollars for transportation back to where I was sent from. The State of Washington makes no allowance for her released prisoners nor does she pay them for their labor while here, so you see Dr. Du Bois that this is one time in my life that I need a friend. Why do I come to you and why did I break the law? First, Dr. Du Bois, I must come to some one of my race in a time like this. There are two or three white organizations that help white convicts in like condition but not colored. They tell you to get some colored people to help you and that is what I have been trying to do. I have written to two other prominent colored persons, like yourself. One did not answer; the other told me I would have to get some one that knew me before I got in trouble to help me. Second, I broke the law. I knew better. I have no brief for myself but Dr. I have payed many times in the two and one-half years I have been here and Dr. Du Bois this is no fairy tale. The Warden, Mr. Clarence Long can and will verify my statement. My sentence is from 2 to 15 years. I was eligible to go home six months ago but because of my lack of transportation I am being detained until I can raise it. They can keep me the full fifteen years if nobody will help me, so I beg of you that amount until I have employment. I surely will remit same.

Number 12275, Walla Walla, Wash.

WISH to take exception to a statement made in the last issue of THE CRISIS, wherein you state that the Catholic Church knows no color line except in the United States, and that therein the line was drawn completely.

Now, I have not been all over the United States, but I do know that here, in the city of Des Moines, in Saint Ambrose Cathedral, there is no color line.

Colored people have occupied the pew for which I pay, a colored altar boy serves on the altar and during Lent a small colored lad acts as standard bearer on Fridays when the Stations are said.

I have attended St. Ambrose for ten years and all that time I have known by sight a number of colored people and during all this time the before mentioned facts have been true. For the last four years there has been a colored boy in the boys' choir.

Your statement may have been justified in some instances, but I can hardly believe that my Church would stoop to such narrowness.

MRS. H----

T HROUGH your wonderful organization I wonder if you would help me to find a position.

I am a registered (N. Y.) pharmacist and a graduate of Columbia. Up to two years ago I had a steady position and lost it due to a chain store, The Davis Drug Company, Inc., buying the business located at, Brooklyn, N. Y. They held me over about three months as Assistant Manager at \$47.-50 per week. The Davis Company, being a southern organization from Baltimore, discharged me and put a clerk at less salary in my place. My record was A. No. 1 they inform me. Also my work was very satisfactory. They expressed apparent regret at letting me go, but I found out on very good authority it was on account of my color, although I had the complete confidence of the white customers, and physicians in the neighborhood, having been in that one locality over ten years, as a clerk and also a tax payer. If I do not find work soon, I am afraid I will lose my home.

I am married and have a wife and three small children; ages 4 years, two years and three months. Can furnish you best of references. I am also a Notary Public.

Would be very happy to have you interest yourself in my behalf so I can properly maintain my home and family.

Brooklyn.

THE CRISIS

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THE DU BOIS LITERARY PRIZE

THE facts are these: Once upon a time I took a long and beautiful journey into Time and Space. I saw again Eisenach beneath the shadow of the Wartbourg, and heard the voices of that merry party—Dora, blue-eyed and black-haired; the red-haired Elsa, the Sonderhofs, the Keims from France and little McMahon of England; and I felt again the stern presence of Oberpharrer Herr Doctor Marbach.

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Then I went to Berlin to see its astonishing transformation; then through the North Sea to Russia, that greatest and most startling of modern human experiments; out to the Volga and down through the Ukraine to the Black Sea, and so to the City of Cities, Constantinople.

And, being near the edge of beggary, I wired for a second class cabin, Naples to New York, on the magnificent Duilio. Then I rushed to Italy through Athens and Brindisi, and was informed most politely that all second class accommodations were gone but that they had saved me a lovely cabin in the first class!

There were two objections: First its cost would land me in New York just about penniless, and secondly if there is anything from which I run, it is the kind of American snob that travels first class in a Trans-Atlantic boat. Let humanity take any form but that, and my firm nerve shall never tremble! But I had to take that boat for work called.

On the boat, the ordeal of the dining room was rather well solved: two priests, a nice old couple from the Middle West, and a few silent nonentities. I could eat in peace. Just as matters were settling down to my ocean-going routine of sleeping, eating, writing and dozing, I noted an American and his family of a wife and a daughter. He approached me, appeared to know me, talked and invited me to join the family at tea. With much politeness, I refused for the day and shunted the invitation to a distant future. I was afraid of that usual social triangle where the Colored Person comes as an invited guest and finds other friends of the family present who

are surprised and snippy, if not worse. After a few days, to save my own sense of courtesy, I went over to the group in the beautiful Salon and had tea. And thus began the most interesting of all my twelve voyages across the Atlantic. We talked and walked and sat silently together. We discussed poetry and travel and the world in general. There was one birthday dinner, with champagne, (quite outside the twelve-mile limit!)

The friendship thus begun has continued. The daughter last year married Oliver La Farge of "The Laughing Boy"; and this year, out of a very blue sky, Mrs. Mathews announced her purpose to endow "The Du Bois Literary Prize"!

With a lack of modesty, quite shameless, I hasten to accept and commend, because I have hopes that this substantial prize, as the years go by, will draw the thought and genius of our young writers away from the school of Van Vechten and the later McKay to a more human and truthful portraiture of the American Negro in the 20th Century. I do not want a Prunes and Prism school but I want writers frank and unafraid, daring to produce things that are true and beautiful, and thinking last of all of the wealth which books and poems seldom bring. These are the facts and they please me, as I hope they will you.

WE DARKER ONES

L AST night I spoke at a Peace meeting in the suburbs of New York; a dinner of respectable, wellto-do white people, in a nice new church of an exclusive residential district. There were three of us speakers, an East Indian, a Japanese, and myself.

One of my particular hobbies is sympathetic understanding between the darker races and my meeting with many of their representatives from time to time has greatly encouraged me. But last night I got a jolt.

The Indian, who was appropriately named Chatterje, got up and explained the caste system of India as a gradation of color from white Brahmin to black Sudra, through intermediate red and yellow. He regarded this as quite ideal, for the white caste had time to

think and dream, while the black folk worked for them! Imagine this in a land that has just rid itself of black slavery. And before representatives of the colored world.

To add to my astonishment, there was the Japanese student: he was a "Christian" from Union Seminary, and he was most obliging. He ladled the flattery on his white audience until my stomach turned. He assured us that the Japanese laborers who came to the United States were very inferior beings, quoting as he said, the Japanese Consul. They didn't keep the rules of the labor union. Japanese merchants were notoriously crooked and cheated honest American visitors. Japanese exporters shipped false teas. Americans were very lovely and fine and Japan was learning at their feet. Especially learned University students like himself. "Oh, yes," he repeated, "very, very fine. Indeed, the Emperor had asked Mr. Mott how Japan could combat communism! Think of it! The emperor of Japan asking advice of a Christian! Unheard of! Splendid! And so he went on with a half hour's twaddle, grinning and kow-towing like a monkey. To add to my disillusion, the white audience liked it. They laughed at him. They took his obvious and overdone flattery as the deserved truth. They sat up and looked virtuous.

Then I spoke, and I was very unpleasant because I was mad clear through. I am afraid that I sneered at my fellow colored men, and I certainly did not flatter the white folks. I told them that the real cause of modern war was the despising of colored people and other groups whose faces were in the mud like the Sudras in order to supply leisure and luxury to the rich; and for the cheap labor and goods of these outcasts the white nations were willing to fight each other; and that armed understanding between magnificent nations like the United States and Japan was not going to bring the millennium an inch nearer, etc.

Of course, I, who counted Lajpat Rai as a friend and who have talked sympathetically with Tagore, and who regard Gandhi as greatest of men; and know splendid representatives of the Japanese people, do not for a moment mistake these wise men from the East as typical; but it did give me a jolt to realize that even out of those oppressed lands can come nonsense and servile flattery quite equal to our own from those who have not yet learned to stand up as men.

ALIEN ENEMIES

W E are in receipt of some of the official literature of The Army of Caucasian Crusaders, "The Great White Blood Brotherhood." This particular leaflet is copyrighted by William Joseph Simmons and further information may be obtained at 202 East 12th Street, New York.

We cull the following veracious information about three dangerous organizations:

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,"-a rapidly growing and efficiently going mammoth movement of and for all peoples of color, particularly the radical black man; nicely camouflaged in name and profession, but subtle and sinister in purpose, design and program. Its ambitious aim is political, social, economic and industrial conquest; educational and cultural recognition and full absorption of all colored peoples, especially the Negro by the white people. This movement is in league with and is backed with men and money, by Soviet Russia's Internationale and is in the pet care of international communism. It also has the hearty sympathy and liberal monetary support of many politicians and thousands of more or less influential and prominent, but misguided or senseless, white men and women citizens of our Republic.

"National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs,"—a conniving radical organization of Negro women, in the furtherance of full and universal equality, especially SEX equality. Its foul aim is to destroy the racial barriers erected by God Almighty in creation, and make of our beloved country a land of hybrid-bastards.

"Commission on Interracial Co-operation,"—an asinine, compromising clique aiding and abetting colored conquest; founded by prominent white preachers and laymen of the South, and directed jointly by whites and Negroes. Its membership is racially mixed; hence, a 'Black and Tan' mongrel movement. Its membership numbers many, many thousands and it commands money most liberally in the furtherance of a contemptible program, which makes it a source of great sympathetic strength and practical value, in effect an active auxiliary, to Nos. 11

and 12 above listed. It has the actual affiliation and liberal support of a vast number of our most prominent (honest but unthinking) preachers, laymen and women of influence and wealth. It is very active and is fostered by many of our churches and social leaders."

DROUTH RELIEF

MAY we call to the attention of the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General, and even of President Hoover himself, that in the Mississippi Valley, Negro peonage is being directly encouraged. We quote from the Associated Press:

"Loans will be available as soon as the applications are received, Warburton said. Farmers are limited to \$600, except landlords in the Mississippi Valley states who may obtain a maximum of \$2,000 where they assist tenants."

We will explain to the uninitiated that the "tenants" who are thus "assisted" are the same class of persons who were assisted by the Red Cross during the flood. We quote from a Red Cross worker, writing in Volume 28 of THE CRISIS.

A very large proportion of the colored refugees were from the big cotton plantations of Washington County, (Mississippi) one hundred and fifty miles and more up the river, and from single plantations. In this case the planter sent or brought in a list of the names of "his niggers" and transportation for them was given to him. These Negroes were given no choice in the matter. When the planter came to take them home with him, home they went. The only way to avoid this was by slipping out of camp at night and taking refuge with colored people in Vicksburg. This they frequently did, as is shown by the fact that, after the camps were closed, the files showed over 3,000 Negroes "registered but not in camp." Probably the number of "runaways" was much larger, as many of those actually in camp were never registered and their escape was relatively easy. By far the majority of the Negroes were share-croppers, held in perpetual peonage by the planter. The system is to advance credit at the plantation store, the amount of indebtedness to be subtracted from the amount due the tenant when the crop is in. The crop is never large enough to cancel the indebtedness which increases year by year.

The United States Government is now "assisting" these slave drivers with loans.

EURASIA

THE progress of the Negro race provides an inspiring example for other races in a more or less similar condition, and as members of the

Eurasian Community we are much interested in your affairs. We would, therefore, be thankful for a specimen copy of your magazine and if possible indices to the previous volumes. We wish to subscribe to the magazine. MERCIA DOVER, India.

I am sending you herewith some specimen copies of THE CRISIS. You will note in the June number, in the editorials on page 210, that we know something of the Eurasian Community.

CAUSES OF LYNCHING

W E have nothing but praise for the Southern Commission on the study of lynching. It has eleven members: the white members are: George F. Milton, Dr. W. J. Mc-Glothlin, W. P. King, Julian Harris, Dr. Edward W. Odum and Alexander Spence. The colored members are: Dr. R. R. Moton, Dr. John Hope, Dr. Charles S. Johnson, President B. F. Hubert and Professor John Work.

At the same time, we know the temptation that faces such a committee working in the South. They are almost forced to be diplomatic before they are absolutely truthful. We trust, therefore, that they are going to be brave enough to say this plain word about lynching: the cause of lynching lies in ignorance, economic exploitation, religious intolerance, political disfranchisement, and sex prejudice.

The ignorance still forced on the colored South and still allowed in the white South is stupendous. Economic exploitation, including actual peonage on the plantations of the Gulf States and the Mississippi Valley, is a perfectly well-known fact. Political disfranchisement puts the selection of officials who enforce the law largely in the hands of the white mob. Religious intolerance is making hypocrites of Southern white Christians and allowing them to recite the Golden Rule with one side of their mouths and shriek "Kill the Nigger!" with the other. And finally, lynching has always been used and is still being used to stop sexual intercourse between colored men and white women, whether by consent or not. Every anti intermarriage law of the South is a cause of lynching and an affront to civilization. God only knows how many black men accused of rape have been done to death by mobs simply because they chose a willing white paramour or were chosen by one. There is no use blinking these facts. They are true. But we know that it will take courage to say it.

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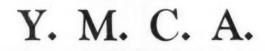
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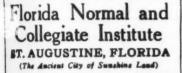
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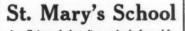
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